

switching said data packet within the network responsive to the user data information, wherein the step of switching includes discriminating between service categories responsive to the user data information.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the data packet is a frame relay data packet.

REMARKS

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

At the Examiner's request, Applicant has attached a new drawing sheet 11 of 11, which includes new drawings Figs. 15 and 16, showing separate and partitioned routing tables, respectively. Support in the specification may be found at least at page 17, lines 9-10, and page 18, line 15 through page 19, line 12. In conjunction with the new figures, Applicant has amended the specification in the description of the drawings and at page 18, line 17 and page 19, line 9 to include references to the new figures. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in the Examiner interview conducted February 5, 2001 that the drawings would not be considered new matter based on the numerous references throughout the specification. Applicant will submit new formal drawing sheets 1-10 under separate cover to correct the drawing sheet number markings.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 50 and 51. Claim 2 has been amended to correct claim

structure informalities.

Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to more clearly and completely claim that which Applicants consider their invention.

Applicants have also added new claims 52 – 55 to more clearly and completely claim that which they consider their invention. Claim 52 depends from independent base claim 31, and further recites that a first data link connection identifier from a first frame relay data packet is translated into a first asynchronous transfer mode address, and a second data link connection identifier from a second frame relay data packet is translated into a second asynchronous transfer mode address. Claim 53 depends from independent base claim 38, and further recites that the user data field is a data link connection identifier. Support for new claims 52 and 53 may be found at least at page 17, lines 16-21.

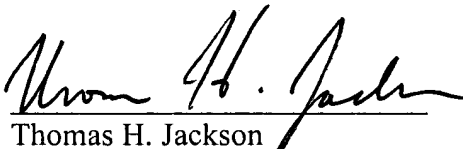
New independent claim 54 is directed to an embodiment comprising a method of routing a data packet. The method comprises receiving a data packet into a network, wherein the data packet has a header portion and a user data portion, and the user data portion comprises an IP packet. A service category is selected based on the data packet header information, and the data packet is then transmitted based on the selected service category. The data packet is further switched within the network based on the IP packet information contained in the user data. The switching step comprises discriminating between service categories based on the contents of the IP packet information. New claim 55 depends back to new claim 54 and further recites that the data packet is a frame relay data packet. Support for new claims 54 and 55 may be found at least at page 13, lines 1-15.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/551,399

PATENT APPLICATION

If for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 508-9119.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas H. Jackson
Reg. No. 29,808

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 508-9100
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Appendix

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is herein provided:

2. (Twice amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving into a fast packet network frame relay data packets, said frame relay data packets having user data in a user data field, wherein said user data comprises service category data; and
switching said frame relay packets within the fast packet network responsive to the user data;
and
~~wherein said user data comprises service category data, said method further including the step of~~
discriminating between a plurality of service categories based on the user data.

50. (amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of frame relay frames at an asynchronous transfer mode switch in
a ~~mesh~~ network; and
transmitting at least a portion of the frames over at least one of a plurality of virtual networks, each of said virtual networks representing different service classes, each of said service classes being associated with a data link connection identifier.

51. (twice amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of frame relay frames at an asynchronous transfer mode switch in
a ~~mesh~~ network; and
transmitting at least a portion of the frames over one of a plurality of virtual networks responsive to Internet protocol IP information contained in at least one of the frame relay frames.

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PATENT APPLICATION

Exhibit A